

Rep. William Bates Dies at 52, On Armed Services Panel

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REP. WILLIAM BATES

Rep. William Henry Bates (R-Mass.), a Congressman for 10 years and the ranking Republican member of the House Armed Services Committee, died of stomach cancer yesterday at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was 52.

Rep. Bates' office said he had undergone X-ray treatment at the hospital from March 19 until early this month.

Bates was known on Capitol Hill as a Vietnam hawk, a defender of the Central Intelligence Agency and an advocate of a modernized, nuclear navy.

In addition to his service on the armed services body, he was the second ranking Republican House member on the House-Senate Atomic Energy Committee.

Born in Salem, Mass., Rep. Bates played varsity football at Brown University before entering the Navy and serving in World War II.

On Nov. 1, 1949, he was a 32-year-old lieutenant commander, stationed in Philadelphia.

On the same day, his father, Rep. George J. Bates (R-Mass.), a member of the House District Committee, was killed here along with 54 other persons, when their airliner, coming in to land at National Airport, collided with a military plane piloted by a young Bolivian.

On Feb. 14, 1950, the younger Bates won a special election to succeed his father as Congressman from the sixth district of Massachusetts.

Rep. Bates, one of the House members serving as members of the CIA watchdog team, joined House Armed Services chairman Rep. L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.) in defending the agency when it came under challenge in 1967.

Responding to criticism of the CIA's infiltration and sponsorship of student groups, Reps. Bates and Rivers issued a statement saying:

"Espionage was not at issue - the survival of freedom was."

In addition to his bachelor's degree from Brown, Rep. Bates also earned a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

President Nixon sent a message of condolence yesterday to Rep. Bates' wife, Pearl.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Susan, of Boston, his mother, Nora, of Salem, and three brothers and three sisters, all of Massachusetts.

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